NEWS

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Governor Quinn Announces Federal Unemployment Aid for Flood-Affected Counties in Southern Illinois

Aid will help individuals unable to work due to historic flooding

CHICAGO –June 16, 2011. Governor Pat Quinn today announced that the Federal government approved his request for Disaster Unemployment Assistance for the residents of 14 Southern Illinois counties impacted by severe flooding during the spring. The assistance is available to people who live or work in Alexander, Franklin, Gallatin, Hardin, Jackson, Lawrence, Massac, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Randolph, Saline, White and Williamson counties, who were unable to work because of the disaster.

"This assistance will help families get through this difficult time. The historic flooding this spring disrupted the lives of thousands of people across southern Illinois, keeping many people from being able to go to work to support their families," said Governor Quinn. "We will continue doing all we can to help those impacted by flooding to rebuild and recover."

Governor Quinn submitted a request for federal disaster assistance for individuals to President Obama on May 24, which was approved on June 7. On June 10, Governor Quinn's application for aid to local governments in the 14 affected counties was approved as well.

Because of requests made by the Governor, individuals in the area have been able to access temporary housing, grants, and loans to help with flood-related losses. The previously approved requests will also enable businesses impacted by the flooding are eligible for low-interest loans, and local governments to recoup expenses incurred during flood response and recovery.

Aid applications will be handled by the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES), and must be filed by July 16, 2011. IDES office locations are available by calling (888) 367-4382 or visiting www.ides.illinois.gov. Individuals are eligible for up to 26 weeks of DUA benefits as long as their unemployment continues to be a result of the disaster. Eligibility for DUA benefits will be determined on a week-to-week basis.

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